

Nunes Co-sponsors Health Centers Renewal Act

Congressman Nunes became a co-sponsor of H.R. 5573, the Health Centers Renewal Act, which recently passed the House and is awaiting action in the Senate. The legislation provides for the continuation of federal funding for community based health centers. Community health centers provide medical care to the uninsured, underserved and vulnerable populations.



"They are an integral component of our nation's effort to ensure all Americans have access to affordable health care," said Rep. Nunes.

In 2005, more than 13 million people received care at 3,745 health centers across the country. A 1998 study demonstrated that low-income Medicaid patients under the care of health centers had a 22% lower hospital utilization rate than those receiving care from other sources. Indeed, the efficiency of delivery of care in health centers and the importance of shifting primary medical care away from the costly hospital environment is essential in our efforts to reduce the cost of overall health care delivery.

This shift is also important in our efforts to promote preventative medicine and primary care among low-income Americans. Demonstrating the highly effective work of health centers, the Office of Management and Budget has rated the national health centers program as "performing" and "effective." Congressman Nunes added, "The work of health centers must be promoted and financially supported by our government, and I fully support the efforts of President Bush to increase funding for this important program."

Death Tax Compromise Passes House

On June 22nd, Rep. Nunes voted in favor of H.R. 5638, Permanent Estate Tax Relief Act. This bill would permanently eliminate the estate tax or "death tax" for 99.7 % of all Americans. Those who are still required to pay the estate tax would have much lower rates. This would provide some much needed clarity for small businesses and family farms in the San Joaquin Valley who have struggled for years with the cumbersome and job-killing death tax.

"I am pleased to see the House moving forward in the fight to end



Many family farms would have to be sold in order to pay the death tax that Rep Nunes is working to repeal

the death tax. While I would have preferred to see a full repeal, the compromise contained in H.R. 5638 is a good start," said Rep. Nunes.

Under current law, the estate tax gradually declines until it is fully eliminated in 2010. However, in 2011, the tax returns in full force. In contrast,

H.R. 5638 would permanently reduce the estate tax on Americans beginning in 2010. The new rate would be 20% on all estates under \$25 million and 40% for estates over \$25 million. The exemption level would also be increased to \$5 million per person.

"With quick Senate action, family farms will be safe from the IRS in the unfortunate event of a death in the family. The Senate needs to act quickly in order to ensure that more people are not unfairly impacted by the death tax," he added.

Quick Facts

Rep. Devin Nunes maintains two offices in the 21st Congressional District to serve the needs of his constituents. His main office is in Visalia at 113 N. Church St., Suite 208. The telephone number is 733-3861.

His Fresno County office is in Clovis at 264 Clovis Ave., Suite 206. The telephone number is 323-5235.